

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7998

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0915

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EK, GE, PINT

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH GDR CHARGE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REFS: A) YAOUNDE 4064 (1975) B) A-111 DATED 12/15/75

1. DURING ATTENDANCE AT CELEBRATIONS OF FINAL VICTORY OVER COLONIALISM IN BATA MARCH 5, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, I HAD CONVERSATION WITH GDR CHARGE DIETRICH WENDLUNDT, WHOM I HAD MET IN DECEMBER 1975 AFTER PRESENTING MY CREDENTIALS IN MALABO (REF A), AND WHO WAS SEATED NEXT TO ME DURING PARADE WHICH INCLUDED "PRODUCTIVE FORCES" LIKE LUMBER TRUCKS AND MINERALS LAB.

2. TO MY QUESTION WHETHER GDR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES (PRC, USSR, CUBA, AND NORTH KOREA HAVE EMBASSIES AND AID MISSIONS IN EG) WERE ABLE TO OFFER EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO EG, WENDLUNDT REPLIED EMPHATICALLY IN THE NEGATIVE. THE FIRST BATCH OF EG TRAINEES HAS NOT YET RETURNED FROM THE GDR, AND WHILE A COUPLE OF THE FEW EDUCATED YOUNG EQUATORIAL

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GUINEANS ARE BEING USED IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY, LIKE

CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, WENDLUNDT HAD HIS DOUBTS WHETHER TRAINED PERSONNEL WOULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY IN FUTURE. THE EG GOVERNMENT IS EXCEEDINGLY SUSPICIOUS OF ALL FOREIGNERS AND DOES NOT HAVE A SINGLE FOREIGN ADVISER. WHEN THE CUBANS SENT TWO AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS MORE THAN A YEAR AGO AND NO ONE IN THE EG GOVERNMENT WOULD LISTEN TO THEM, THEY WERE WITHDRAWN. WENDLUNDT ALSO SAID THAT A PRC RICE GROWING PROJECT WAS GETTING NOWHERE BECAUSE OF THE EG GOVERNMENT'S UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. (FYI: THE PRC AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD ME THAT THE DIFFICULTIES WERE DUE TO THE DENSITY OF THE FOREST. END FYI). WENDLUNDT ALSO ATTRIBUTED THE DIFFICULTIES TO THE EXTREME CENTRALIZATION OF EVERYTHING IN THE HANDS OF PRESIDENT MACIAS.

3. WENDLUNDT'S INTERPRETATION OF THESE PHENOMENA WAS MARXIST. HE CALLED EG CLASSICAL CASE WHERE BOTH MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND LABOR FORCE HAD BEEN FOREIGN UNDER SPANISH COLONIALISM. AFTER MEANS OF PRODUCTION, THAT IS MAINLY LAND, WAS ABANDONED BY FOREIGNERS, KECIAS DID NOT EXPROPRIATE IT, BUT IN SOME CASES ASSIGNED IT TO MINISTERS AND THEIR ILK FOR EXPLOITATION, WITH GENERALLY POOR RESULTS. I WAS TOLD BY SPANISH CHARGE THAT REASON FOR NON-PROPRIATION WAS AVOIDANCE OF HAVING TO PAY INDEMNITY. WENDLUNDT'S MAIN CRITICISM WAS OF WASTE OF PROFITS (HE ALMOST USED MARXIST TERM "SURPLUS VALUE") FROM COCOA, LUMBER, ETC., ON NONPRODUCTIVE SHOW PIECES LIKE GRAND PALACE AND TWO NATIONAL BANK BUILDINGS.

4. COMMENT: WENDLUNDT'S CRITICISM IN CONGRUENT WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR GNEDYTH'S STATEMENT TO ME LAST DECEMBER (REF B) THAT VARIOUS ARAB AND AFRICAN SOCIALISMS, INCLUDING EG'S, WERE NOT GENUINE SOCIALISM, GNEDYTH WAS SITTING ON MY OTHER SIDE DURING PARADE, LOOKING GLUM. I HAVE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT NONE OF SOCIALISTS, INCLUDING CHINESE WHO ATTENDED EVENING DINNER AT AFRICAN PEOPLE'S PALACE WITH DELEGATION OF 45, ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH THEIR AID OR INFLUENTIAL WITH MACIAS. SPIRO

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